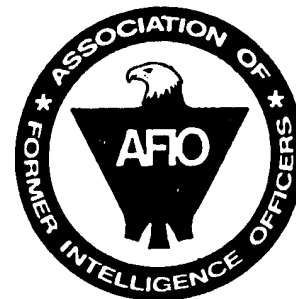


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Association of Former Intelligence Officers

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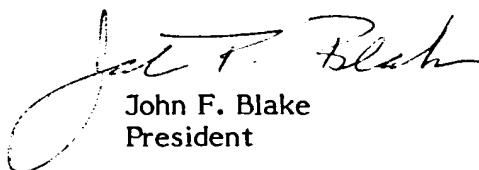
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7 July 1980

There is attached a copy of "A Critical Analysis of the PBS-Sponsored Production of "On Company Business" We believe you will find it worth-while reading. Please feel free to reproduce it for local distribution, extract language for any letter you choose to write to PBS or any affiliate that showed the program, or to quote from it should you care to contact any Congressional representative.

We are also making selected distribution of this paper outside of AFIO to Congressional, media, and other interested parties.


John F. Blake
President

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS
OF THE PBS-SPONSORED PRODUCTION
"ON COMPANY BUSINESS"

This paper addresses itself to a three-part production entitled "On Company Business" shown on many PBS national affiliates during the month of May, 1980. The credit lines on the production carried an entry identifying Philip Agee as a "Special Consultant".

The PBS program was described as a documentary. It was not. Instead, as San Francisco Chronicle television critic Terence O'Flaherty put it, "it is an attempt to document one man's opinion of the CIA - in this instance, Philip Agee, a defrocked CIA officer who is dedicated to the destruction of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency by any means at his disposal, including the publishing of lists of U.S. agents in foreign countries."

There are so many misrepresentations and misstatements in the presentation that it is difficult to know where to begin in correcting it.

More than three-fourths of the show is devoted to an anti-CIA bias. The backgrounds of the anti-intelligence spokesmen are not given except in a blatantly distorted way by merely referring to them as ex-CIA officers. Nothing is said about Agee telling CIA when he left it that he bore the Agency no ill-will, appreciated the time he spent in it and offered to help it in the future. Instead, he ended up by going to Cuba where, by his own admission, he received help from the Communist Party of Cuba in writing his first book. Nor is anything said about the

fact that four European countries have deported him. Nothing is said about the fact that the CIA first learned about John Stockwell's resignation by reading his letter of resignation in the Washington Post one morning. This alone might have some bearing on the viewer's concept of Stockwell's character. Nor is anything said about the fact that Marchetti became angry at CIA because, after overstepping his authorities as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, he was transferred to another position within the Agency. The list could go on to show how viewers were left in the dark about motivations of those used to support Agee's biases.

Even in using William Colby and David Phillips ostensibly to balance the anti-CIA bias, both men are used as straw men to be knocked down. The film clips of both men were taped years earlier and they had no idea at the time in what context their statements would later be used. Sentences from both, as used on the show, are egregious examples of selective quotations which are then repeatedly attacked and ridiculed in lengthy polemics by anti-intelligence people. Colby and Phillips are given no chance to rebut the allegations and false charges of their detractors.

And the TV presentation makes no pretense about being concerned with historical accuracy despite the long list of researchers and others shown in the credits. With all due respect to former DCI William Colby, he was totally inaccurate in stating that CIA was "set up in order to struggle at (the) subversive level." Even the Church Committee, not exactly known to be friendly to CIA and intelligence, clearly pointed out that even CIA did not originally believe it had the authority to engage in psychological warfare and propaganda when directed to do so by President Truman some time after CIA was established. CIA therefore could not have been created with fighting subversion as its purpose.

And not strangely, since accuracy was not essential in this "documentary", in attacking the Marshall Plan there is not one word about the fact that the Marshall

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Plan was originally offered to the Soviet Union and the East European countries. It was the Soviet Union that rejected it and saw to it that the East European countries did so also. The U.S. then went ahead to provide economic aid to Western Europe. But the viewer would never know that the Soviet Union deliberately rejected Marshall Plan aid from watching the Agee show.

One could go on but it would require at least as much space as the original script. One subject, however, must be touched upon and that is the way the show handled the question of torture.

No responsible critic of CIA and intelligence has ever charged that CIA officials were involved in instructing anyone in torture techniques. The Church Committee, the Pike Committee, The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence - none ever made those charges after all their investigations.

In the film nothing is said about Jesse Leaf, an intelligence analyst, resigning from CIA in 1973 after receiving a less than favorable fitness report in 1973, at a time when DCI Schlesinger and DCI Colby had created a climate wherein attacking previous procedures and policies was more than given a fair hearing. Where was Leaf and his torture charges then? And how could Leaf, an intelligence analyst, have "worked under" an official who for a period of five years organized and established SAVAK, a task which would have been carried out by the Operations side of the CIA if it were done and not by the Analysis side. The fact is that one of the criticisms of the CIA made by the Congressional investigative bodies was that CIA's affairs were too tightly compartmented and that the analysts knew little about the operations being conducted. How was Mr. Leaf able to break down this barrier?

And why was there no mention in the show of the fact that Angela Seixas, who spoke of being tortured by Brazilian authorities, was actually Agee's mistress

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at the time of the interview? Hardly an objective person in a show sponsored by Agee.

And why was there no mention that Manuel Hevia, allegedly an ex-Uruguyan police officer, was actually a Cuban intelligence officer who was delivering his anti-U.S. anti-Mitrione speech in Havana?

And the list goes on and on.

"On Company Business" is so deceptive and distorted without a shred of any claim to balance and objectivity that AFIO questions the judgment of the PBS, a taxpayer-funded entity, to sponsor it. In effect the government, through PBS and the National Endowment for the Arts, assists a publicly-avowed enemy of CIA to make money to continue his efforts to destroy CIA, another government entity. This is a truly topsy-turvy scene.